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THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

Based on The Railway Series by The Rev. W. Awdry

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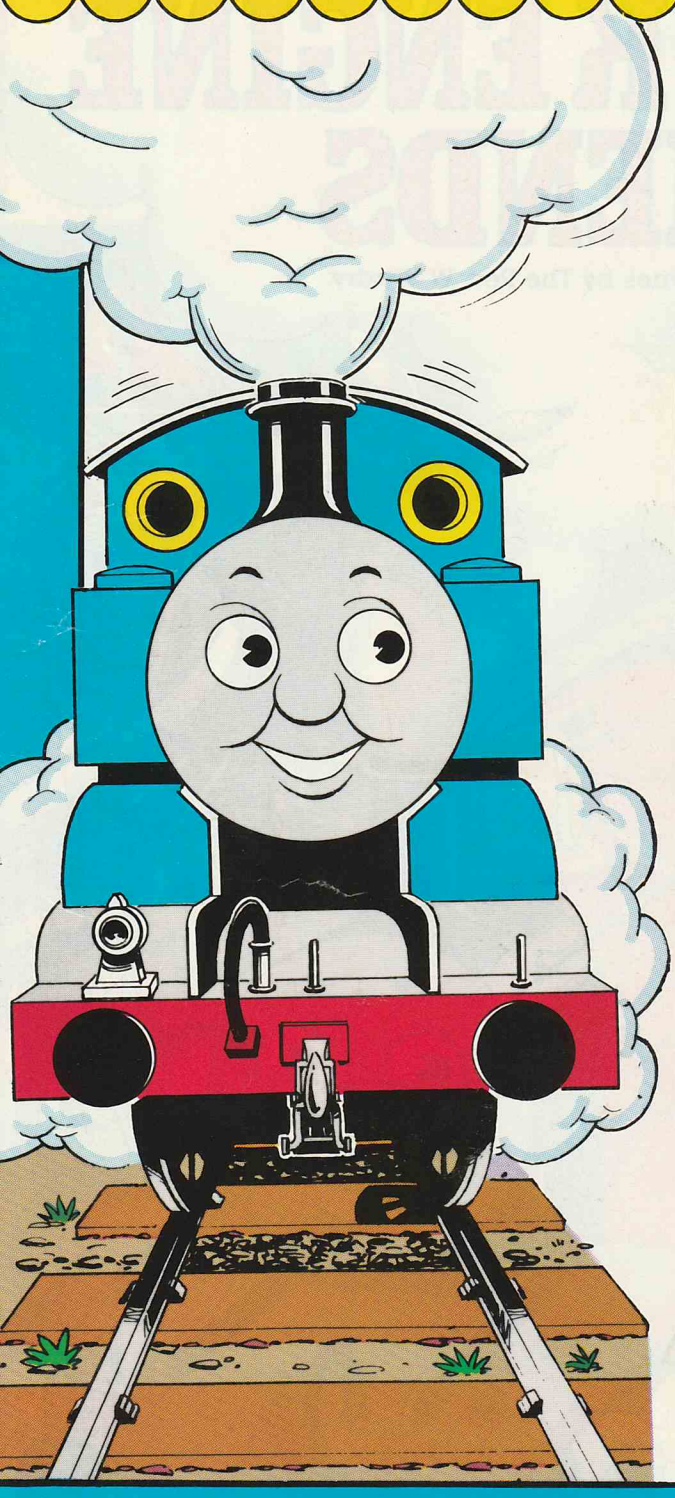
Thomas Easter Sets to be won inside!

THE THOMAS CLUB PAGE



Peep! Peep! Bill and Ben the Saddle Tank Engine twins work up at the clay pits, on the Island of Sodor. They are quite mischievous and are always looking for an opportunity to play tricks on the other engines. One day, the twins decided to play a trick on James the Red Engine. You can find out what they did when you read the story that begins on the next page! Peep! Peep!

10 SPLENDID THOMAS EASTER SETS TO BE WON!

How would you like to win one of these charming **Thomas Easter Sets**, shown below? Well, now here's your chance. All you have to do is answer these 3 questions.

1. What number is Toby the Tram Engine?
2. What colour is Percy the Saddle Tank Engine?
3. Which of Thomas's friends flies high in the sky?

The senders of the first 10 correctly drawn entries from our postbag on Monday, 25th March, will win a splendid **Thomas Easter Set**, from *Kinnerton Confectionary Ltd*. Each **Thomas Easter Set** comprises of 1 **Thomas the Tank Engine** ceramic drinking mug and 1 egg cup, both containing a delicious chocolate Easter egg! The **Thomas Easter Set** is also available for sale right now in most high street stores, supermarkets and selected retail outlets. Please send your entries to this competition on a postcard, together with your details to: **Thomas Easter Set Competition, Marvel Comics Ltd, 13/15 Arundel Street, London WC2.**

THOMAS TOKEN

JOIN THE THOMAS CLUB!

If you would like to become a member of the **Thomas Club** and receive a splendid membership card, just collect 3 tokens like the one adjacent to this section. Send one **red**, **yellow** and **green** token together with one completed coupon (below), listing your details plus stamped addressed envelope, to: *Thomas Membership Cards, Marvel Comics Ltd, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.*

Name ..... **Age** .....

Address .....

.....

Postcode ..... **Date of birth** .....

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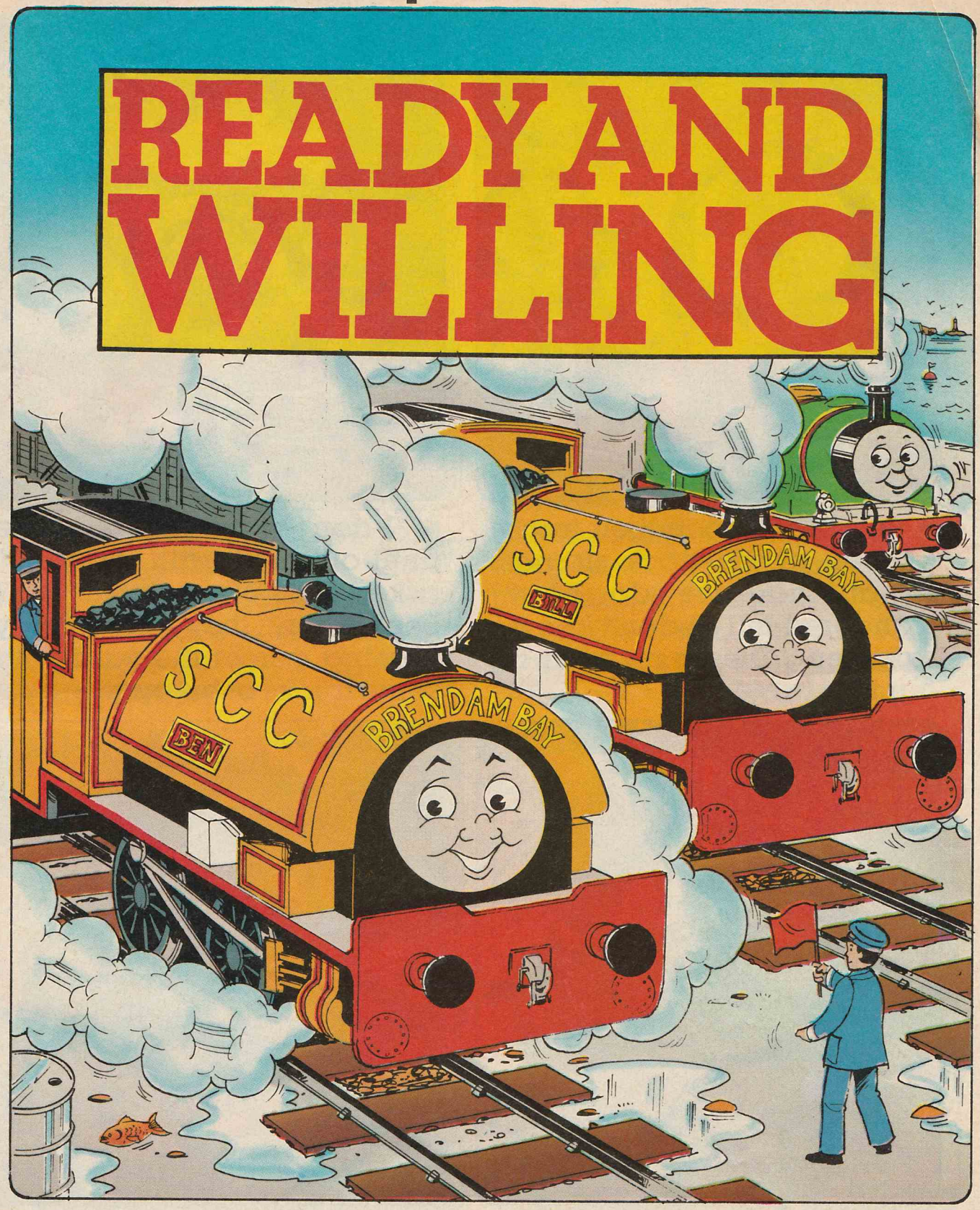
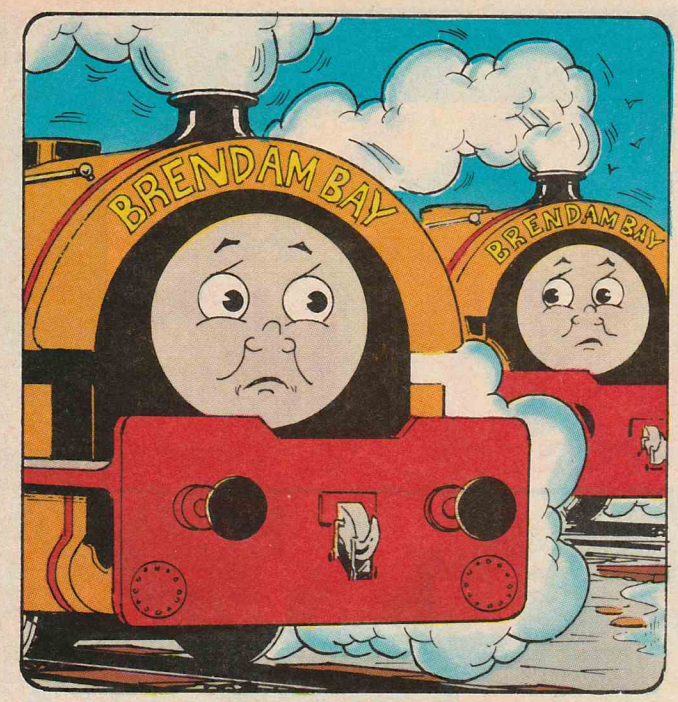
ABC
MEMBER OF THE AUDIT BUREAU OF CIRCULATIONS

A listen and look story!

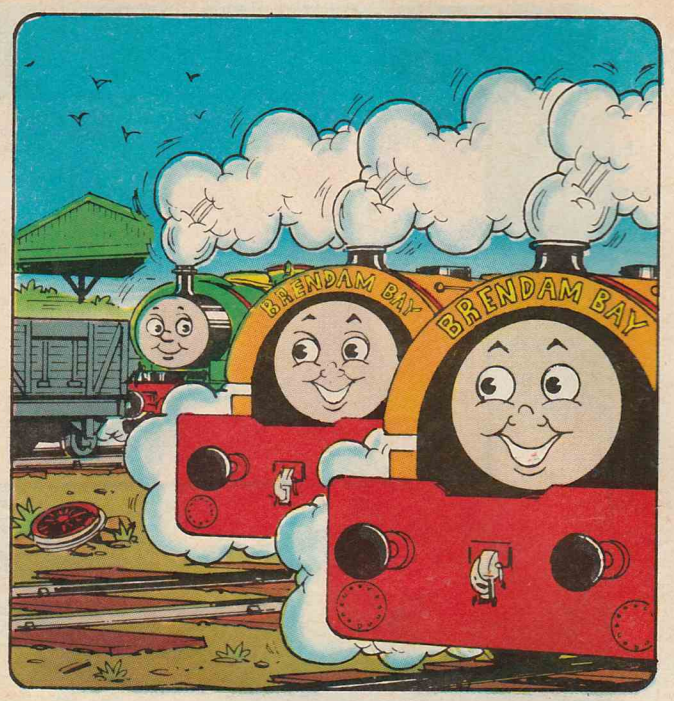


1. Bill and Ben are the tank engine twins who work up at the clay pits on the Island of Sodor. They are rather mischievous and have been known to be very naughty.

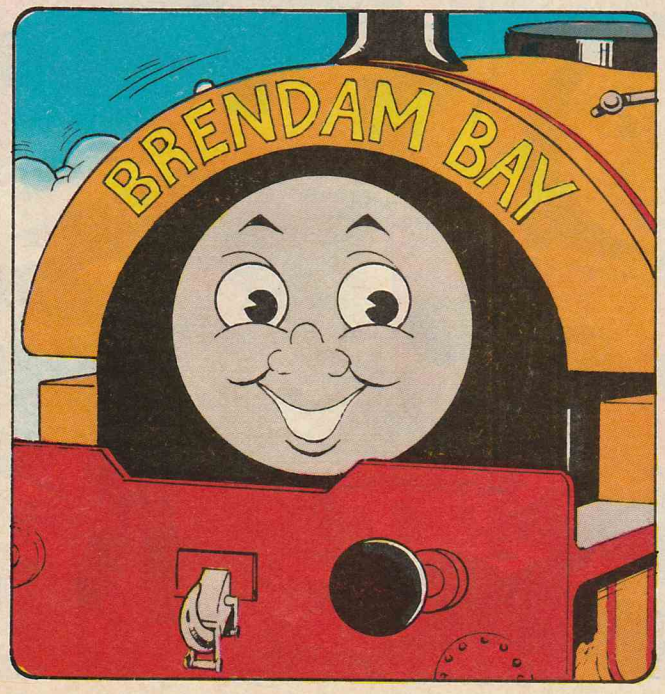
2. One day Bill and Ben had to bring some trucks to the Big Harbour. The trucks were full of China clay from the clay pits, to be taken by ship over to the mainland.



3. Bill and Ben left their trucks on one of the dock sidings. "What shall we do now?" wondered Bill. "I don't know," said Ben. "There's no train on our timetable now."

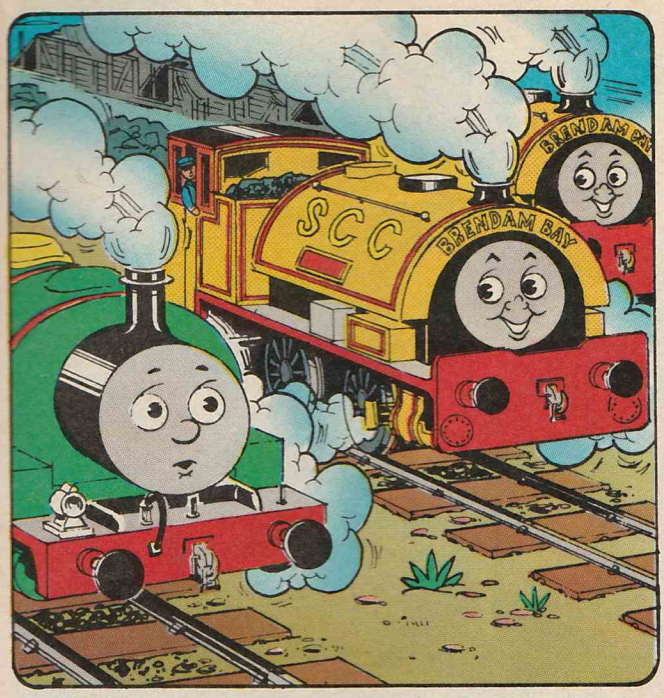


4. "I don't want to stand here until out next train, do you?" asked Bill. "No, I don't," said Ben. Then they saw Percy coming across the yard with some trucks of his own.

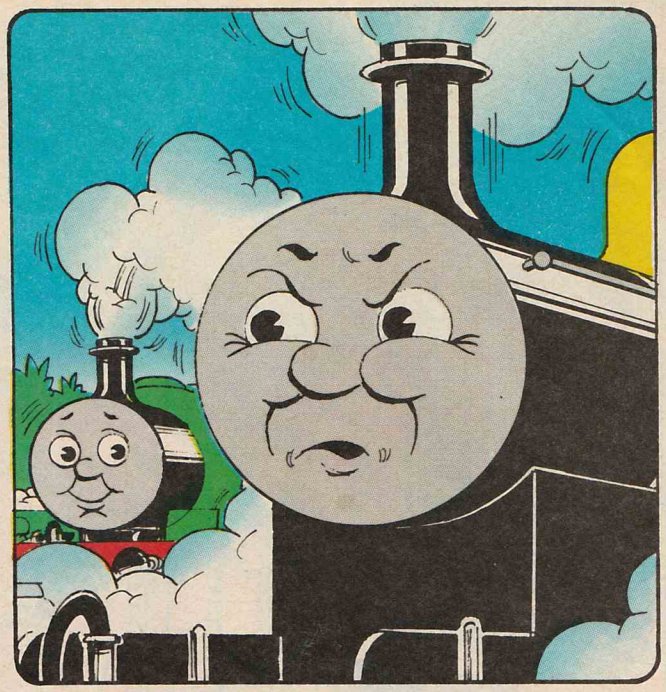


5. "Pip pip!" whistled Bill. "Hullo, Percy! Lovely day." "What a fine train of trucks you're shunting!" added Ben. "Yes," said Percy proudly. "They're for James."

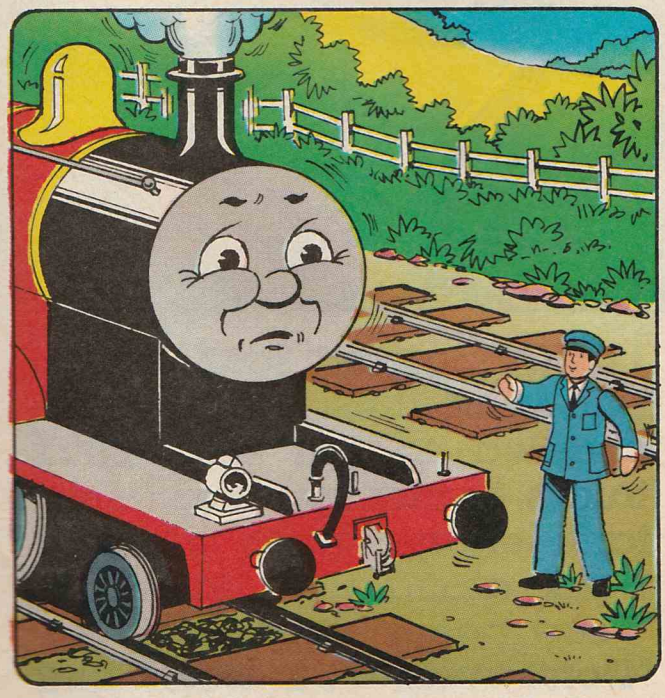
6. "James," said Ben, "don't trouble James with these trucks. We shall take them ourselves!" "But that's not what the timetable says!" protested Percy. "These trucks are. . ."



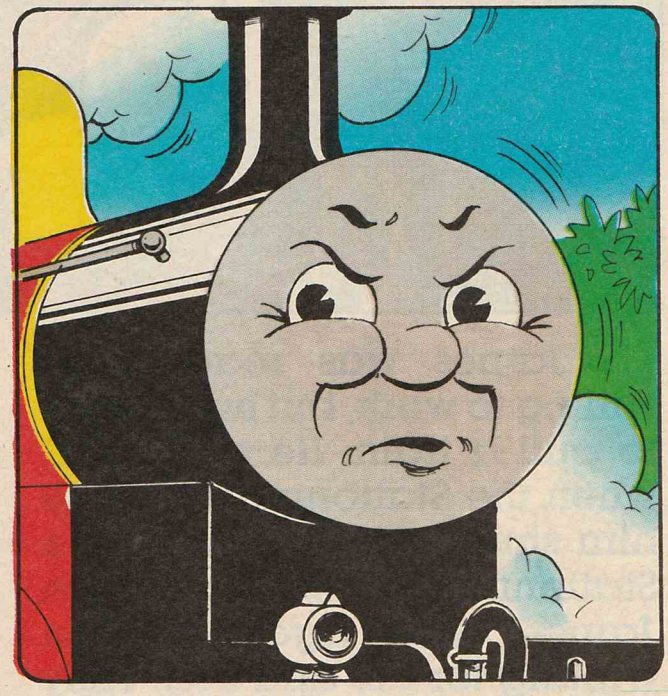
7. "Bother the timetable!" said Bill. "I'm sure James won't mind!" Before Percy could say another word the cheeky twins were coupled up and off they puffed!



8. But James did mind, as it happened. When Percy told him that Bill and Ben had taken his train, he was very cross! "What am I supposed to pull now?" he grumbled.



9. "Not to worry," said the Harbour Stationmaster. "We can find another train for you. If an engine is ready and willing for work, it can always be Really Useful."



10. "Hmph!" snorted James. "It's all very well to be ready and willing! But when cheeky tank engines start stealing trains. . . splendid red engines stand idle!"

11. James was ready and willing to work, but he wanted to pull a train. He grumbled when the Stationmaster gave him shunting work. Later the Stationmaster came to see James once again. "I am waiting for Bill and Ben. They have still not returned," he said. "Their train is ready to go and they should be here! Can you help, James?"

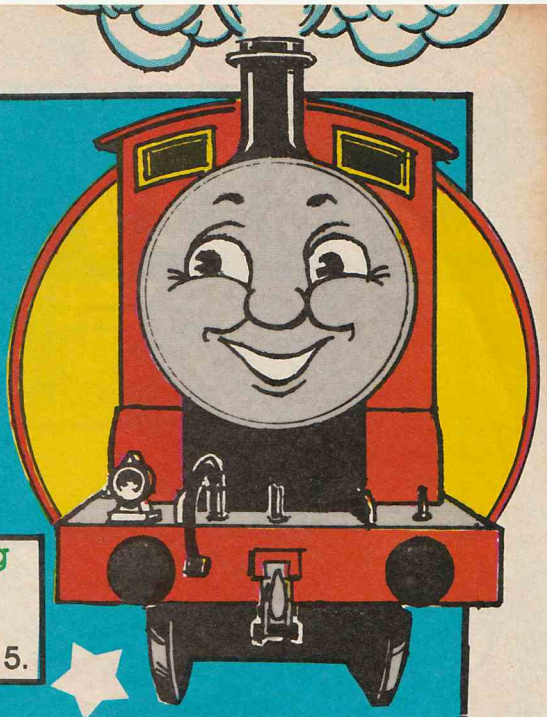
12. "Of course," said James, and in no time at all he was coupled to Bill and Ben's trucks. James met the cheeky tank engine twins hurrying back along the main line. "Peep, peep!" whistled James. "Don't rush! You won't find your train in the yard. Just an angry Stationmaster who says he's going to make you stand in a siding all night!"

THE END

In our next issue: Favourite engine!

JAMES'S JAPES

Have you got a favourite joke to tell James? If so, then why not send it to him at the address shown on the letters page?! The best jokes we receive will be printed in some of our future issues!



What stays hot, even at the South Pole?
Mustard!
David, aged 6.

What kind of tie does a pig wear?
A pigsty!
Laura, aged 5.

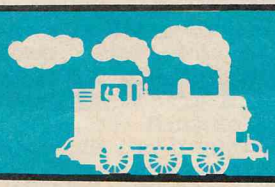
What is a tin opener's favourite dance?
The can-can!
Steven, aged 7.

What car is like a sausage?
An old banger!
Michael, aged 4.

What bird is always out of breath?
A puffin!
Luke, aged 5.

What stands on four legs and gives milk?
Two milkmen!
Simon, aged 7.

Why did the bald man stick his head out of the window?
To get some fresh hair!
Nadine, aged 5.



POSTER MAGAZINE OFFER!

Are you finding it difficult obtaining your copy of the **Thomas Poster Magazine** from your newsagents? Then look no further! Simply complete the coupon below and send it to us together with your remittance, and we will send you **Thomas's splendid Poster Magazine** within 28 days!

POSTER MAGAZINE OFFER!

Name.....

Address .....

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..... **Postcode** .....

Please supply me with a copy of Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends Poster Magazine. I enclose a cheque/postal order for £1.50 (to include p&p) payable to *Marvel Comics Ltd.*

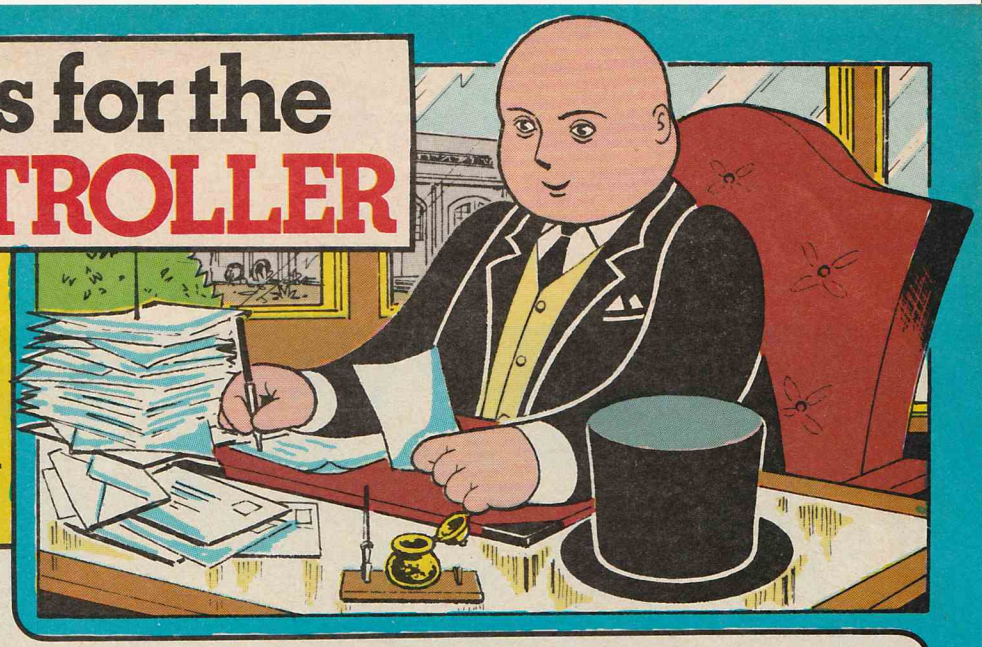
Signature ..... *Date* .....

Please return form and payment to: Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends, Poster Magazine Offer, Marvel Comics, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.

JOIN THE DOTS!

Painting pictures is such fun
Join the dots, one by one!

Your letters for the FAT CONTROLLER



Have you got an amusing story to tell? Do you have a question you would like to ask about Thomas or his friends? If so, then write to me at the address shown below! I would be so very pleased to hear from you!

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

STAR LETTER!

Dear Fat Controller,
I thought that I'd write and tell you about my super present that I received at Christmas. Father Christmas brought me a pair of **Thomas the Tank Engine** slippers. I love to wear them with my Thomas pyjamas! Have you got any Thomas pyjamas or slippers?

Love from **Marc**, aged 4.

Goodness me! *How splendid you must look at bedtime! I also own a pair of Thomas slippers you know, but unfortunately I cannot seem to find a pair of pyjamas in my size!*

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

The sender of any letter that is printed as our **STAR LETTER** will win a splendid **Thomas the Tank lunchbox and flask** – from *Bluebird Toys (UK) Ltd.*

SMOKEY THE CAT!

Dear Fat Controller,
I have a big, fluffy cat called Smokey! I named her Smokey after all the steam and smoke which comes out of **Thomas the Tank Engine's** funnel! When I wear my Thomas boots, Smokey gets frightened and runs!

Love from **Kirk**, aged 5.

My, my *. . . Smokey is a very splendid name indeed! I am very fond of cats and often stroke them when they stray onto my railway!*

BIGGEST FAN!

Dear Fat Controller,
I am a great fan of **Thomas the Tank Engine.** Everyday I play at being Thomas, Mummy is James and Daddy is always Boco. When Grandma and Grandpa play too, they are usually Percy and Henry!

Lots of love from **Fiona**, aged 3.

Upon my soul! *I imagine that you all must have some very splendid adventures together! Do you have any other relatives who play engines with you?*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

Stephen Richard Bone (34760), Andrew Hill, David Ellis (30490), Helen Seaman (22311), Clinton Rhodes (15077), Ashley John Sabin, Ashley Grey, Nicholas Jenner, Christopher Charles (79198), Trevor Applegate, David King, John Lamberton (32499), Timothy Short (34625), Daniel Paul Smith, Craig Brinkman (29462), Myles Lowden, Alastair Todd (20753), Richard Ward (23989), Maria King, Andrew Stone (18275), Mark Robert Smith (22349), Vincent Chalmers (31600), David James Buckingham (26378) and Gary McDowell (12602).

If you would like a birthday mention printed here, please send your details on a postcard, at least **9 weeks** in advance. We cannot promise to print all the birthdays, but we will do our very best.

Yours,

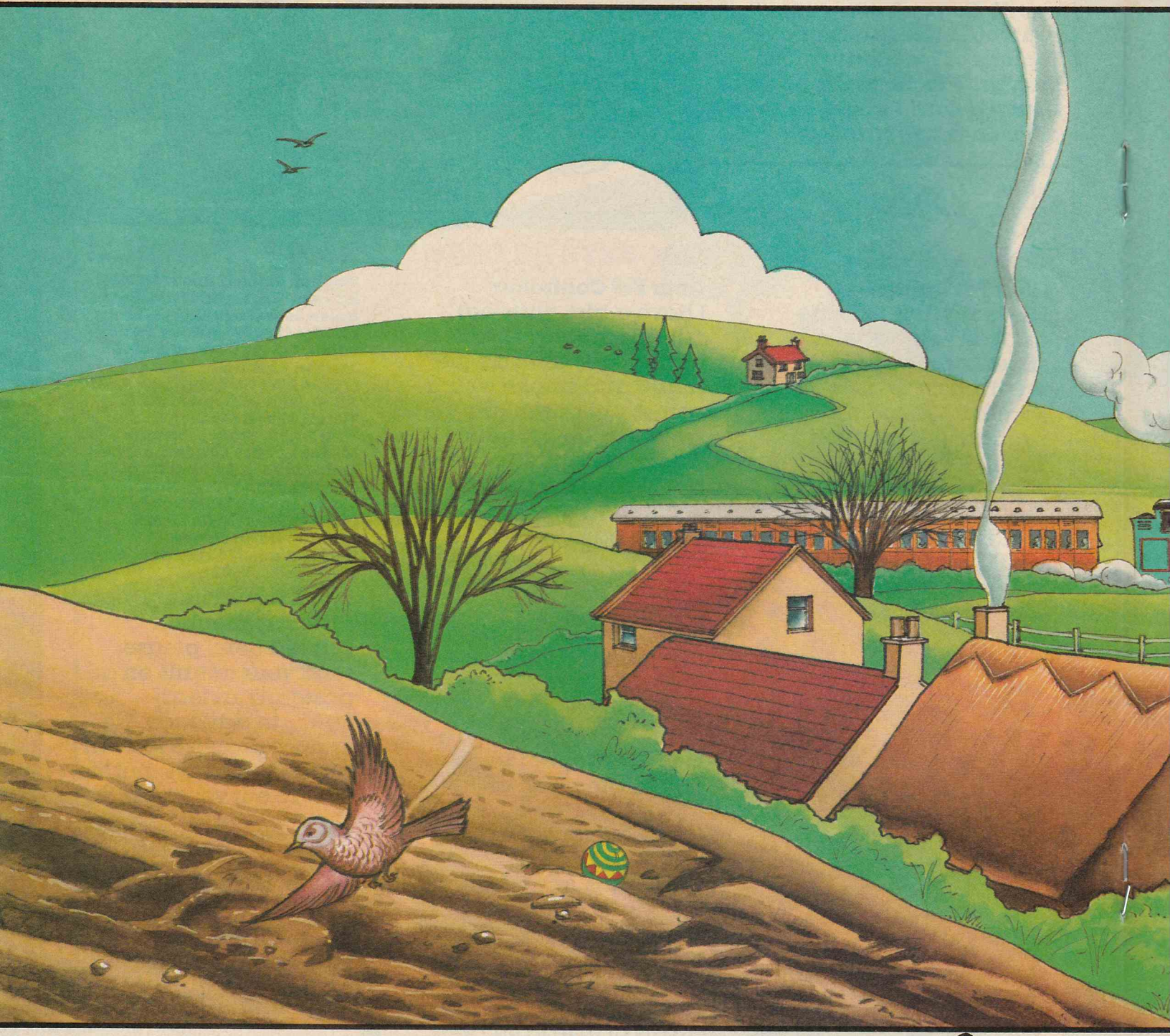
Sir Topham Hatt.

the Fat Controller.

Send your letters to:

The Fat Controller
The Island of Sodor
c/o Marvel Comics Ltd
13/15 Arundel Street
London WC2.

Past the vil



Which engine can you see?

What number is he?

Do you think he is a Really Useful Engine?

Point to Bertie the Bus!

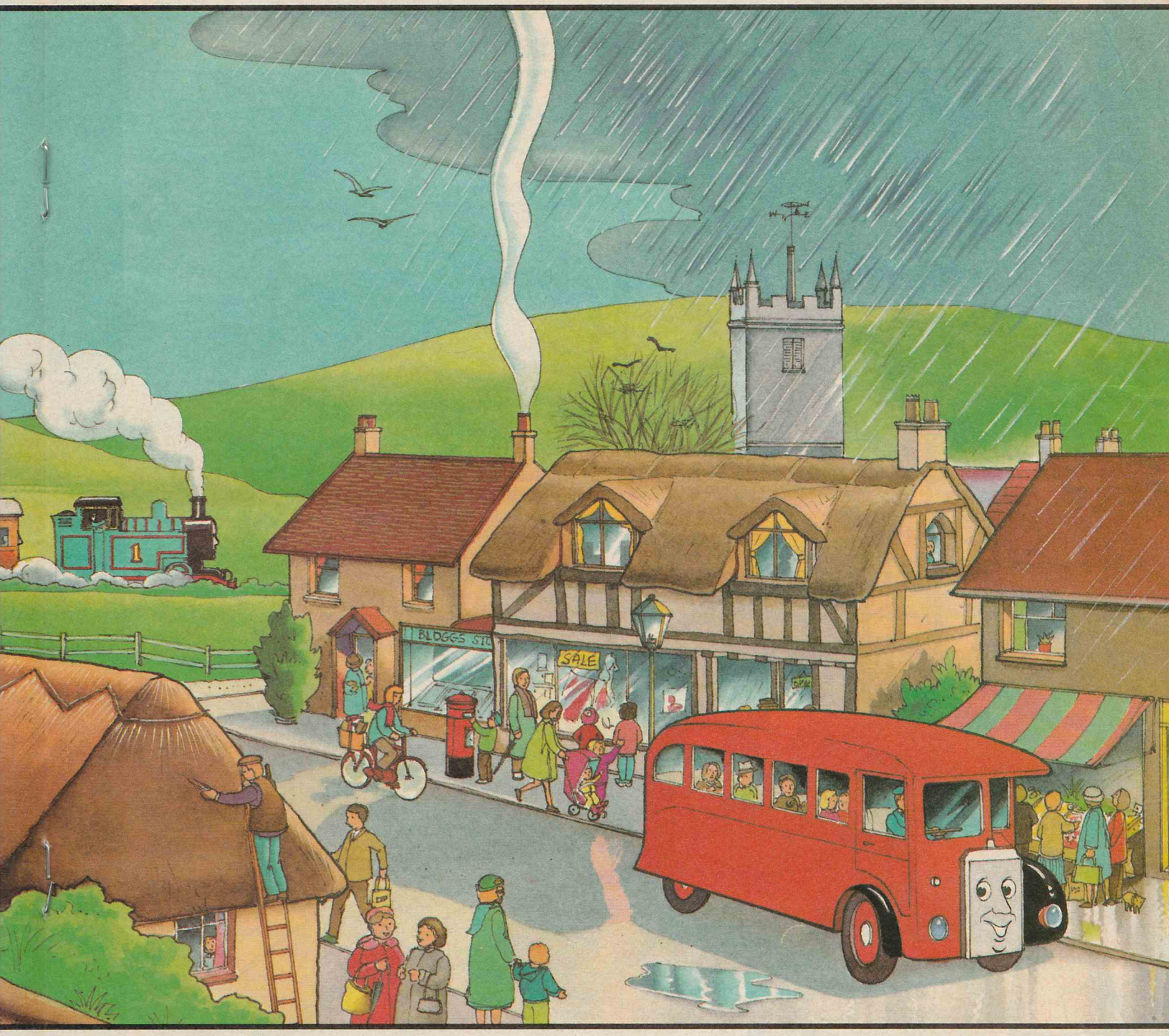
How many bici

Can you find th

How many chin

How many bird

illage!



y bicicles can you see?

ind the lost ball?

y chimneys are smoking?

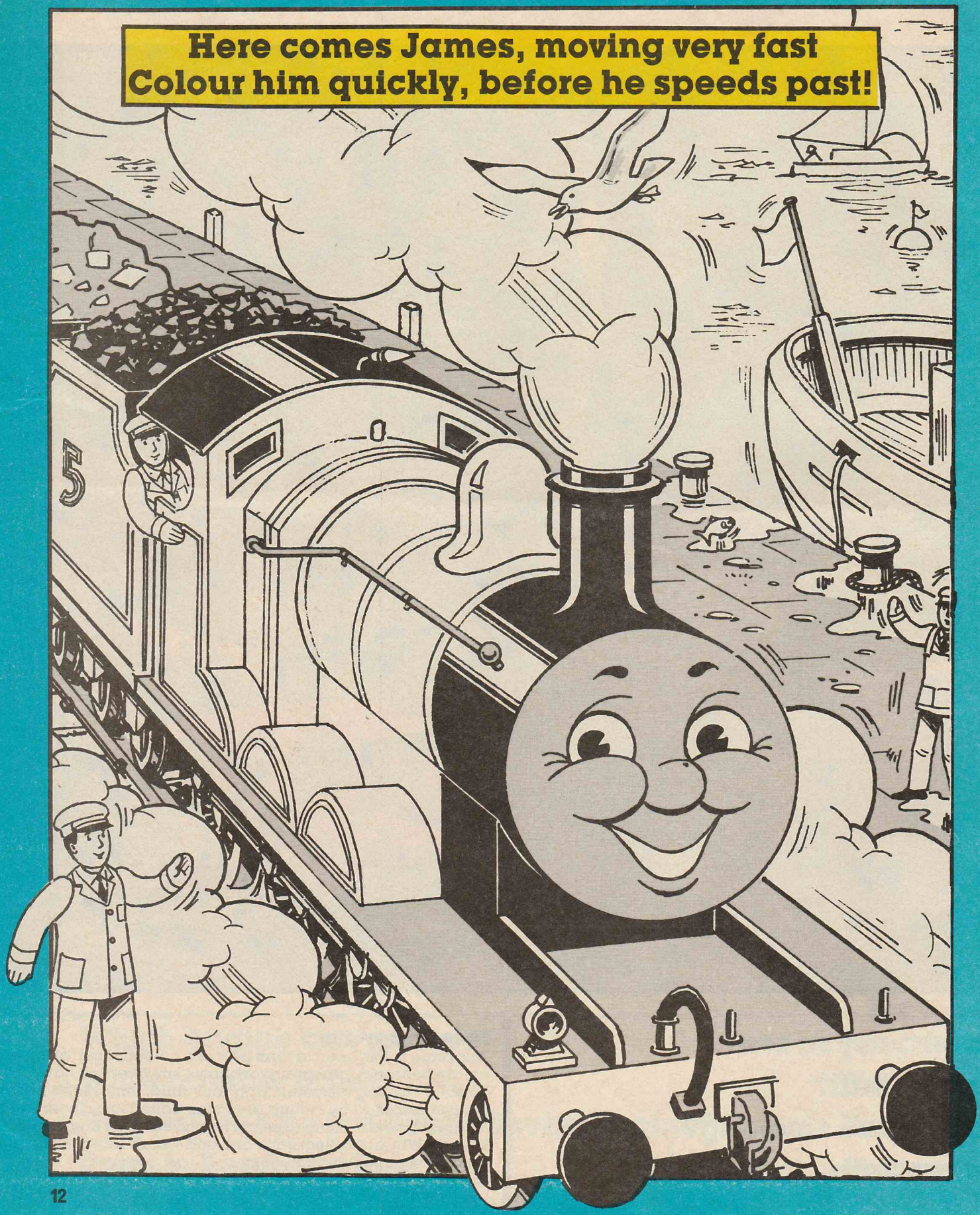
y birds are flying in the sky?

Note for parents

This page is designed to form part of a colourful mural for your child's bedroom, playgroup or classroom. After you have finished reading the comic with your child, remove this part of the centrespread by cutting along the dotted line. There will be a 'mural page' in every issue of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends.** Why not collect each one and watch Thomas and his friends puff all round the room!

Next issue: Into the storm!

COLOURING TIME!

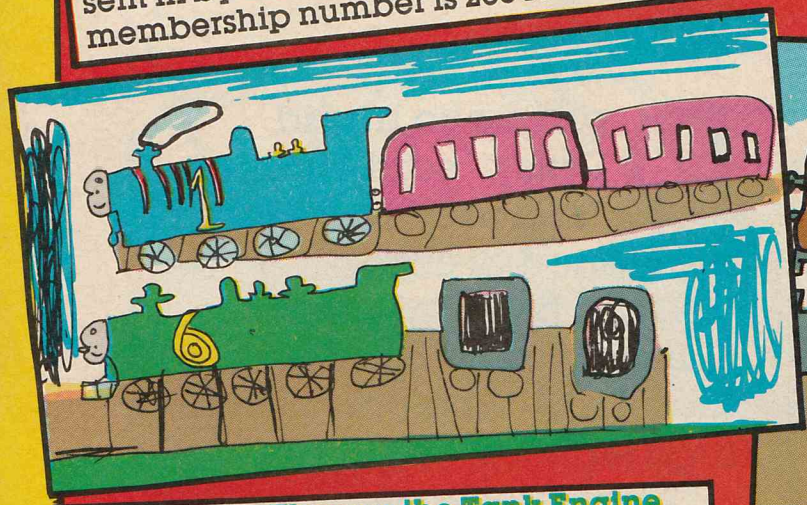


YOUR DRAWINGS for the Fat Controller

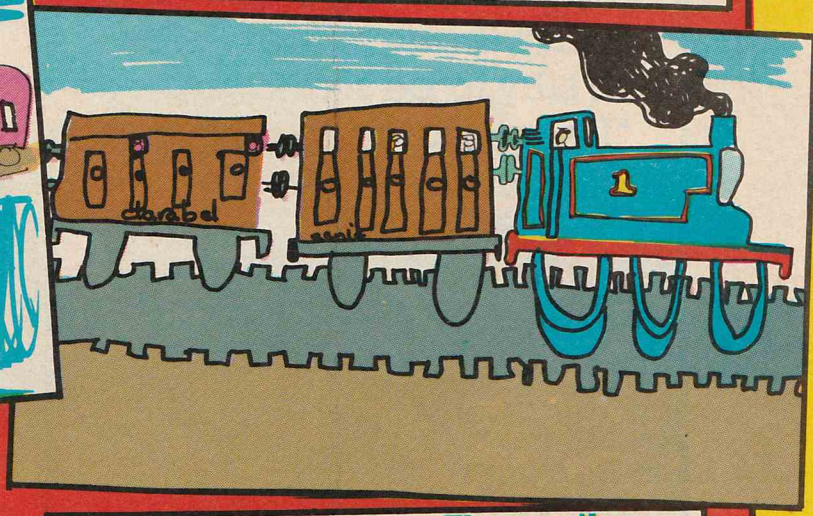
Here are some of the many splendid drawings that you have sent in to us. Can you see your picture?

Here is a splendid picture of **Thomas the Tank Engine** happily steaming out of a dark tunnel. This charming picture was sent in by **Harry Crawford**, aged 5. His membership number is 26043.

Can you see **Bertie the Bus** travelling down the country lane, carrying his passengers? This smart picture was sent in by **Clive Andrews**, aged 10, from Leeds.



Can you see **Thomas the Tank Engine** and **Percy the Saddle Tank Engine** both standing together in their sidings? This super drawing was sent in by **Victoria Lowden**, aged 8, from Kent.



Peep! Peep! Here comes **Thomas the Tank Engine** steaming down his branch line and pulling his two faithful coaches, Annie and Clarabel. This splendid picture was sent in by **Charles Mitre**, aged 6. Well done, Charles!

Thank you all for sending in your pictures – we are sorry, but we could only print a couple in this issue! If you would like to draw a picture and have a chance of seeing it printed in a future issue, please send it to: *The Fat Controller (Picture Page), The Island of Sodor, Marvel Comics Ltd, 13-15 Arundel Street, London WC2.*

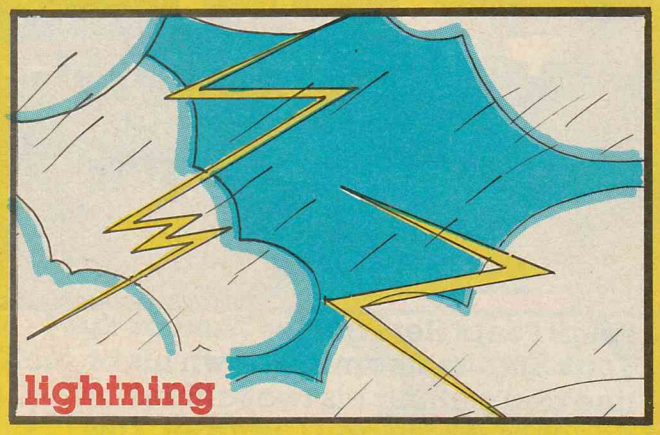
A read-aloud story!

Percy and the Storm!

A weather report had announced that a thunder storm was approaching the Island of Sodor. Percy was frightened of thunder and lightning. Sometimes during a storm, he pretended to have trouble with his brakes or valves. Just so his driver might decide to cancel his regular duties.

Daisy thought that Percy was silly to be so frightened.

"It's not going to hurt you," she told him.



lightning

"You never know," said Percy.

"Boom!" shouted Daisy, pretending to be thunder.

Percy rattled on his axles.

"Ha, ha, ha," laughed Daisy. She thought it was very funny indeed. She even made up a song to tease poor Percy about it.

"Isn't it truly a wonder
That Percy is scared of thunder?
And lightning high up in the sky
Can make small tank engine cry!"

"Don't be so horrid, Daisy!" said Thomas. "You used to be just as frightened of cows!"

"Don't be silly," retorted Daisy. "I am a diesel railcar! A diesel railcar is not frightened of anything!"

"Well whether you are or you aren't," said Thomas, "it isn't very nice to tease poor Percy!"

Daisy went away in a huff.

"Thank you, Thomas," said Percy, as he backed into his shed.

"That's alright," replied Thomas, "but don't you have shunting work to do?"

"Yes," said Percy, "but there's a storm coming!"

"Be brave, Percy," said Thomas. "I'll work with you!"

Percy was hesitant. "I'll try," he said eventually.

The two engines set to work in the yard. The storm soon arrived. The thunder was loud and the lightning was bright, but still the two engines continued to work.

Eventually, the sky cleared and the sun came out again.

"I did it! I did it!" cried Percy, excitedly.

"Yes, you were very brave," agreed Thomas.

A few days later, Percy was shunting in the yard when he heard a terrible shriek! "Help!"

It was Daisy.

"Whatever is the matter?" asked Percy.

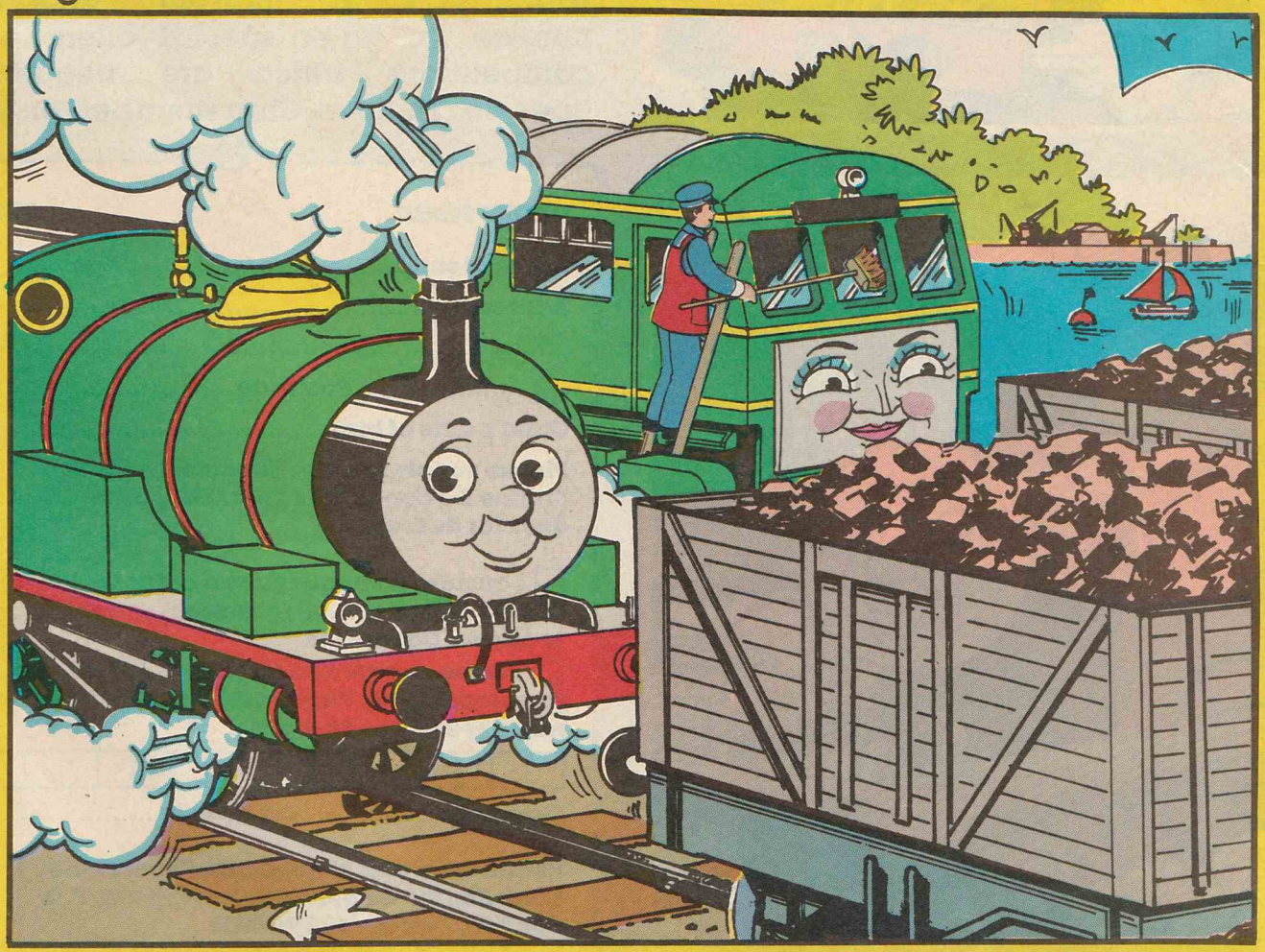
"There's a spider on my windscreen!" said Daisy.

"A spider!" laughed Percy. "And I thought diesel railcars were not afraid of anything!"

But poor Daisy was so scared that Percy asked his driver to brush the spider off, which he did.

Daisy decided not to tease Percy about being afraid of storms anymore!

THE END



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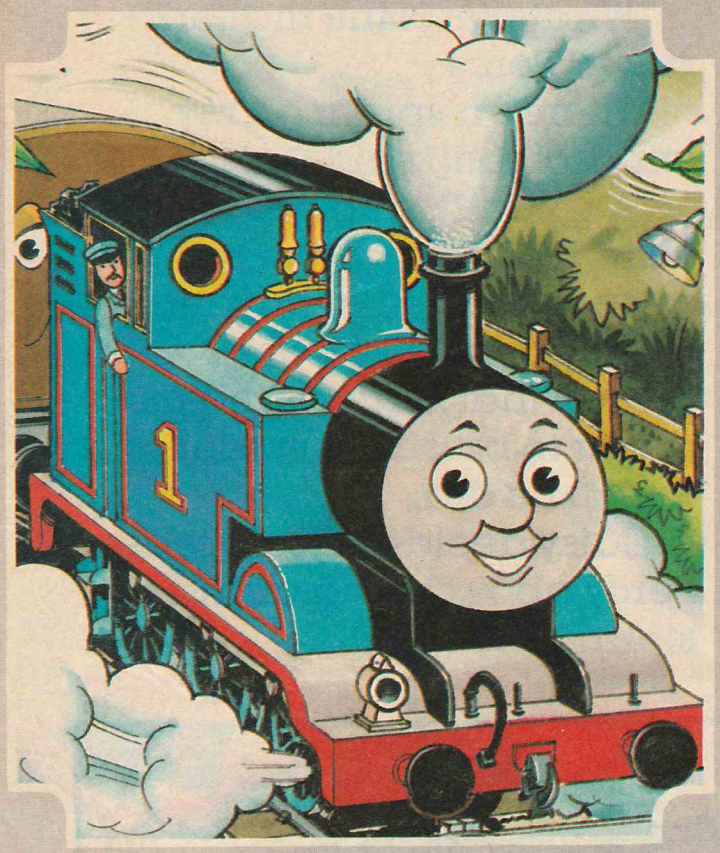

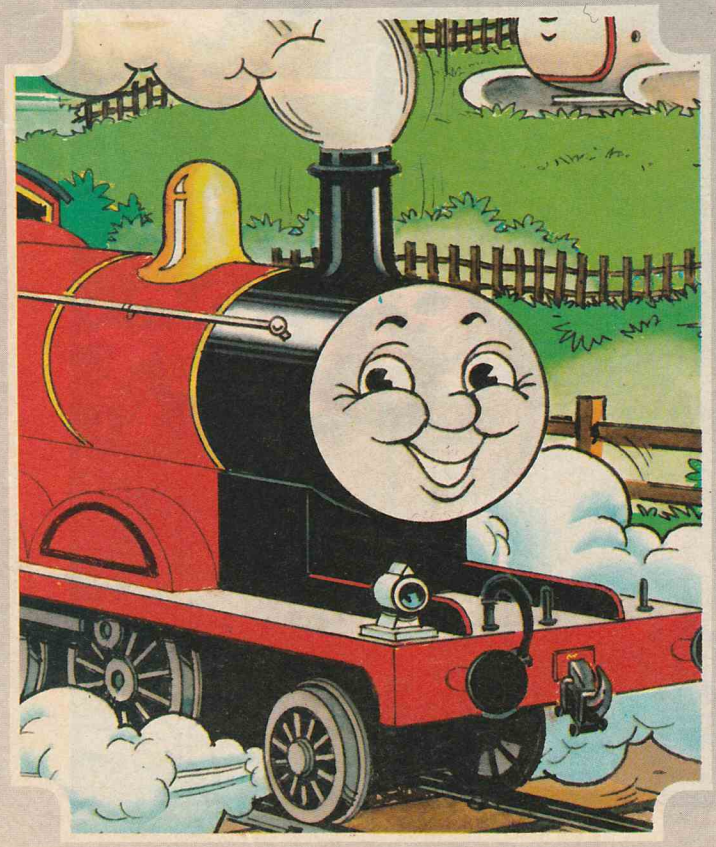

. . .to your child's favourite fortnightly magazine. . .

THOMAS THE TANK ENGINE & FRIENDS

It costs just £16.50 for your child to be sent every issue (26 in all) of **Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends** fortnightly magazine for a whole year! (Overseas subscribers £33.00.) Your child will also receive a splendid Thomas door hanger plus membership card with personal number, enabling him/her to enter special offers and competitions which are frequently open to Thomas Club members only!

ORDER FORM **SO3**

Name of child ..... Age .....

Address .....

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..... Postcode .....

Child's date of birth .....

Please supply me with Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends for a year. I will allow 28 days for delivery.

☐ **I enclose a cheque/postal order for £16.50 (UK) or £33.00 (overseas) payable to Marvel Comics Ltd.**

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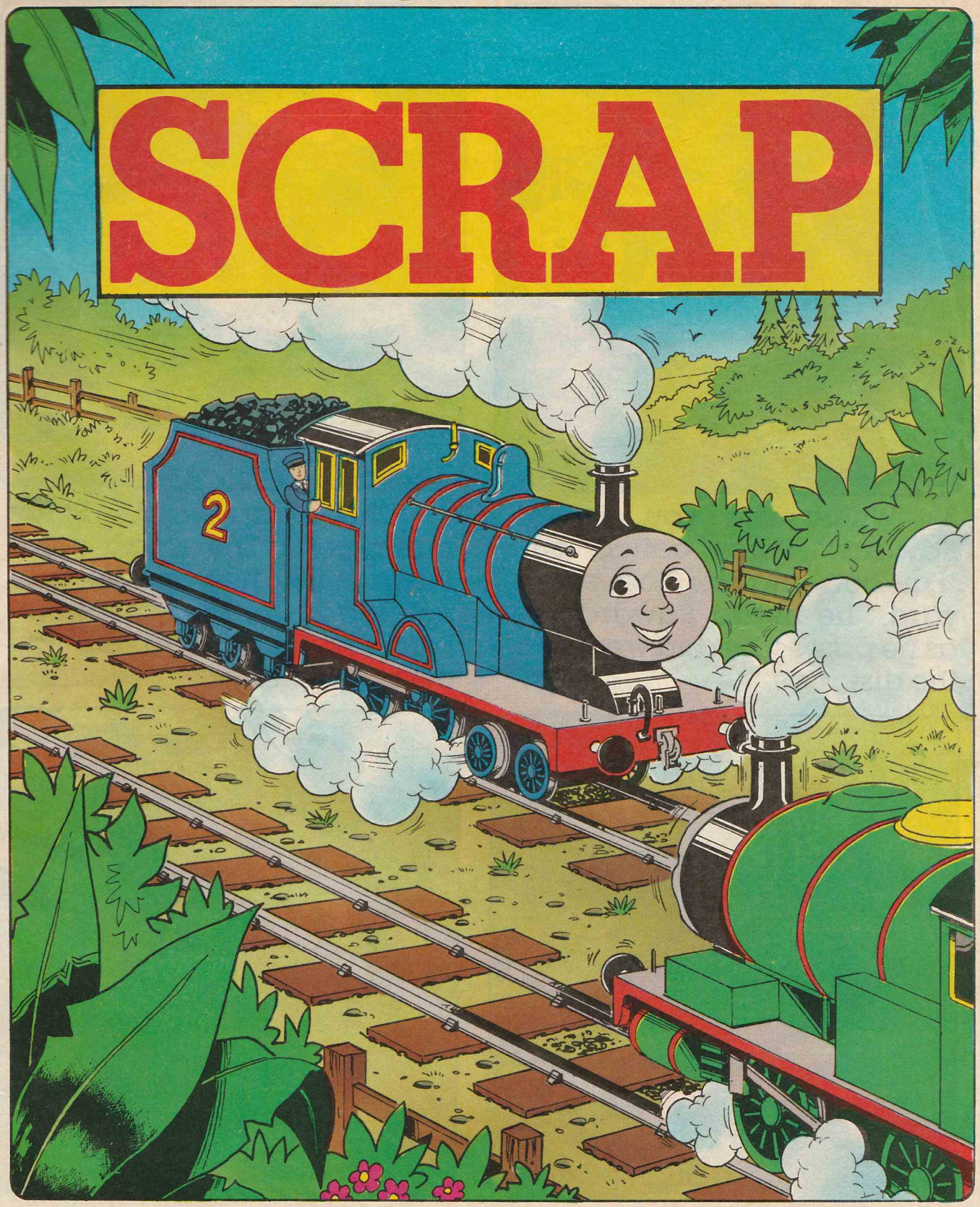
Signature ..... Expiry date .....

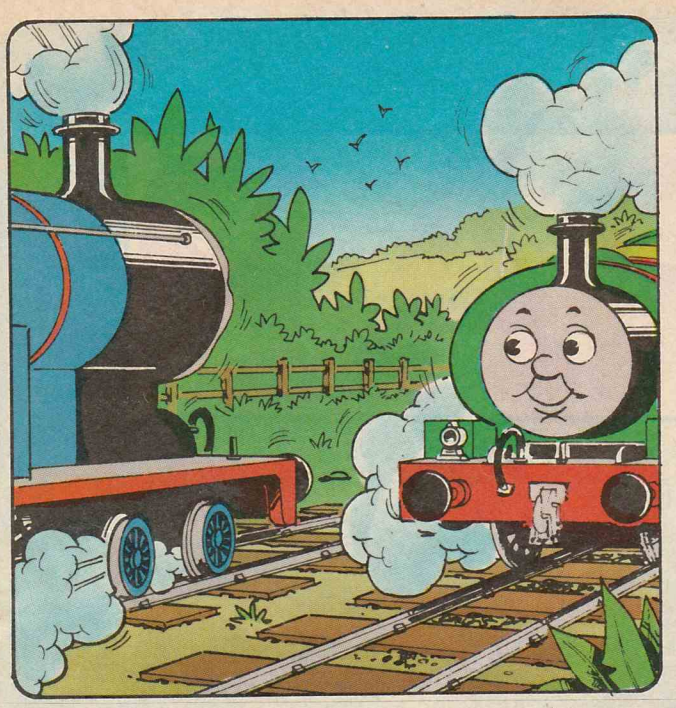
Return form and payment to: *Thomas the Tank Engine & Friends Subscriptions, P.O. Box 500, Leicester LE99 0AB.*

A listen and look story!

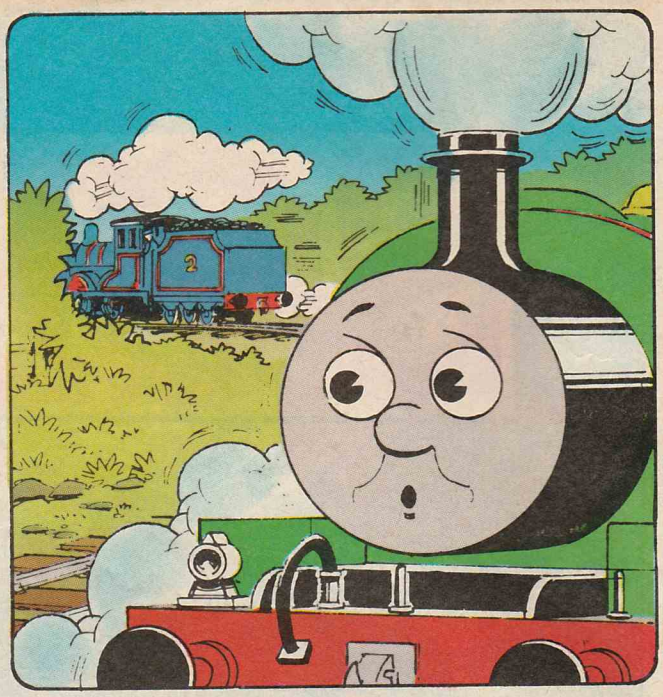


1. Percy was pulling trucks on the main line one day, when he met Edward coming the other way. "Pip, pip, peep! "Look at me! " Percy whistled happily.

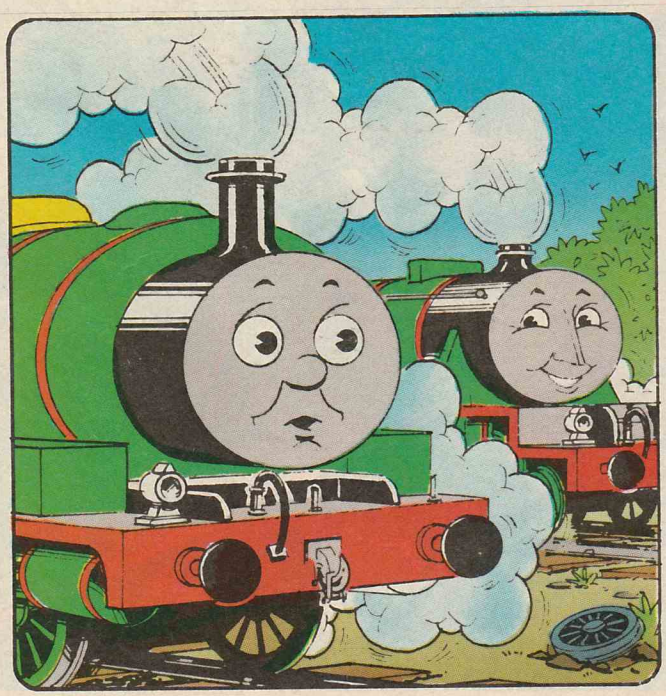
2. Edward wasn't pulling any coaches. He wasn't pulling trucks either. In fact, he didn't seem to be pulling anything at all! "That is unusual?" thought Percy.



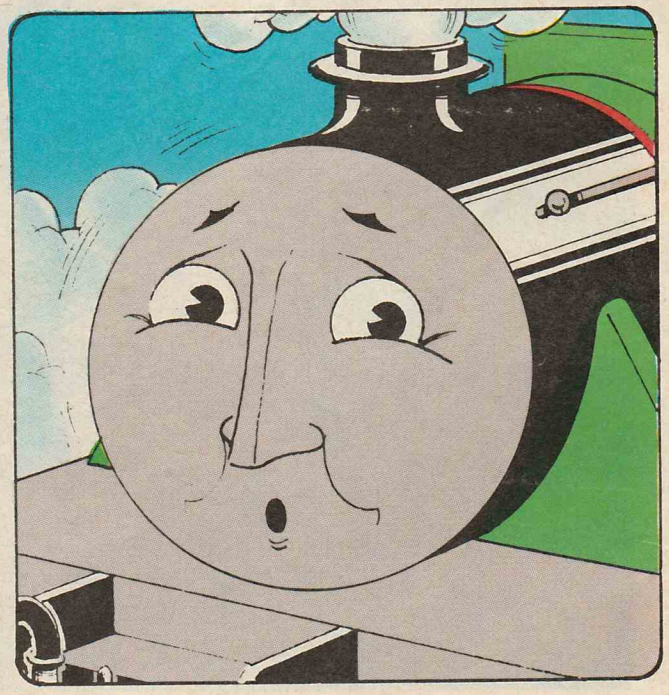
3. "Where are you going, Edward?" Percy called out. "I'm heading for the scrap yard," he heard Edward say as he passed by and went into the distance.



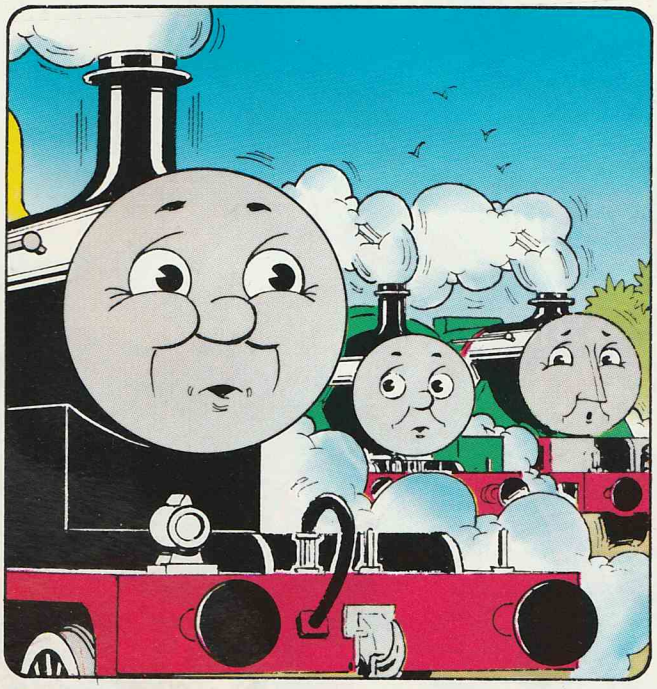
4. "The scrap yard," Percy murmered. "The scrap yard! Edward is a fine engine! He's not ready to be scrapped!" Percy rushed off to tell the other engines.



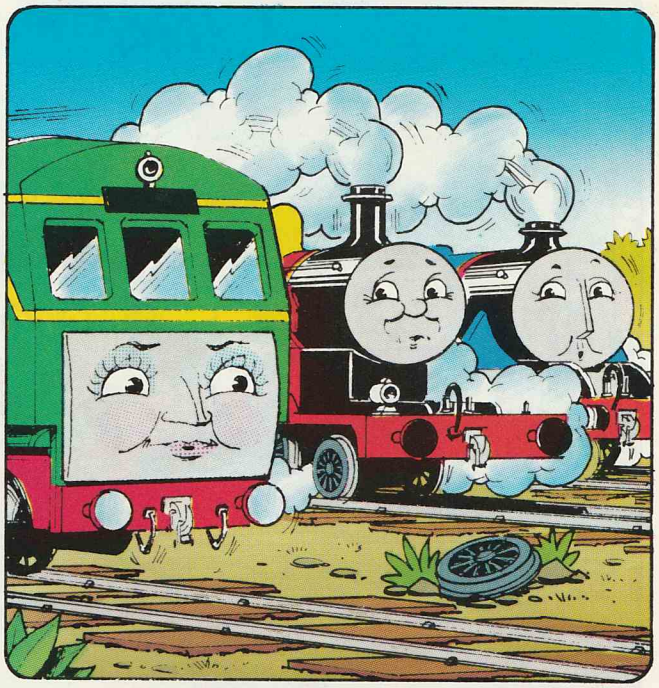
5. Henry was in the station yard when Percy arrived. "Henry!" cried Percy. "Have you heard? Edward has been sent to the scrap yard!" Henry was shocked!



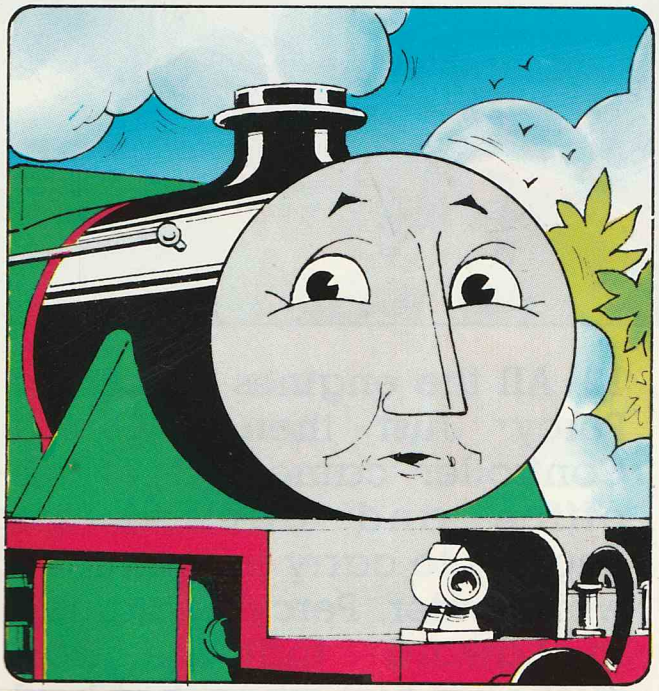
6. "There must be some mistake," said Henry. "Edward can't be scrapped." "It's true," said Percy. "I just saw him on the main line. He told me all about it."



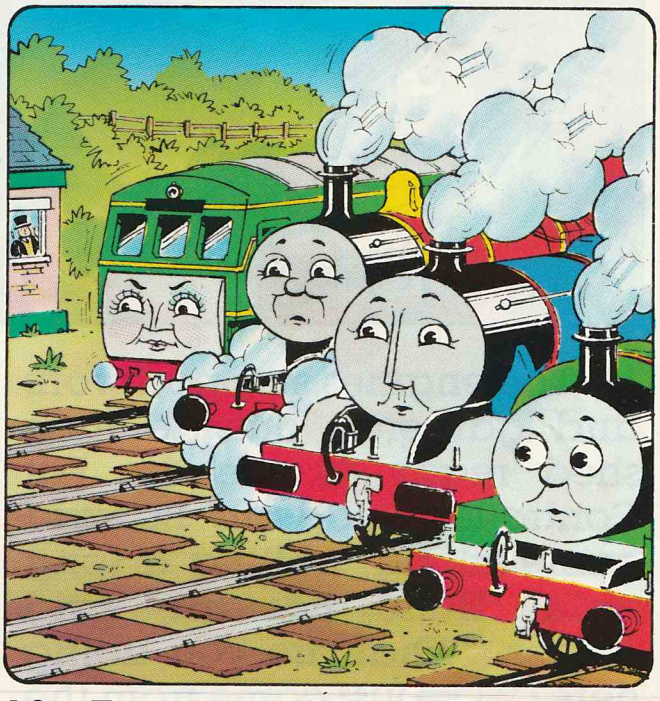
7. "What's all the fuss?" asked James, when he arrived with Henry's trucks. "Edward has been scrapped!" said Henry. "Poor Edward!" cried James. "It can't be true."



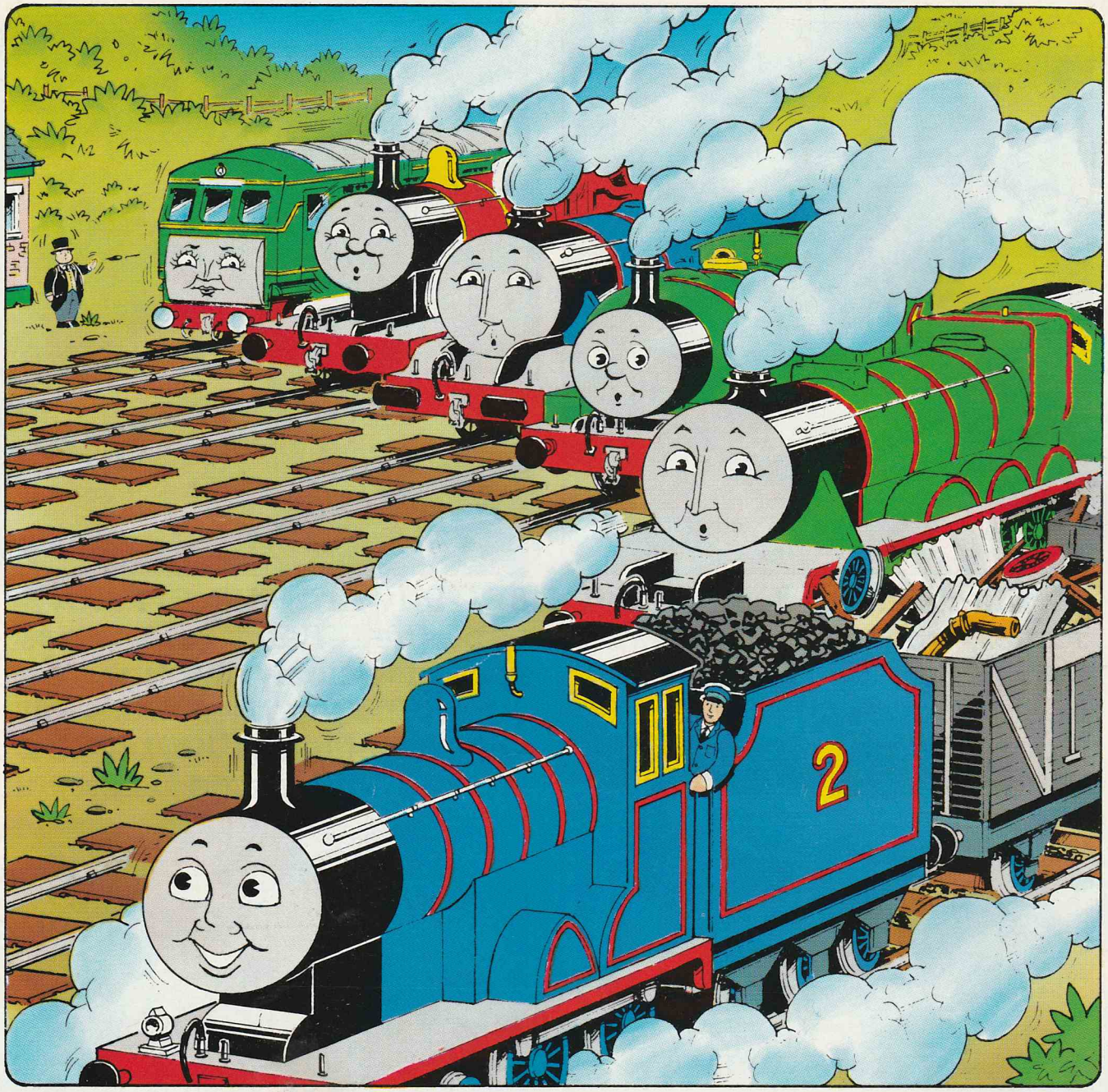
8. "Edward told Percy," explained Henry. The news spread quickly through the yard. The engines were all very upset. "Was he beyond repair?" whimpered Daisy.



9. "No, he was a strong engine," sighed Gordon. "We must protest!" said Henry. "We mustn't allow this to happen!" The engines all agreed to speak to the Fat Controller.



10. Everyone liked Edward. Whatever was needed to keep him running, would have to be done! The engines were frightened that they might be sent to the scrap yard too!



11. The engines stopped work and gathered outside their shed ready to see the Fat Controller. Suddenly Edward came along, pulling a long train! "Hullo, Edward," said James. "What are you doing here?" "I've just come from the scrap yard with these trucks of scrap," said Edward. "But we thought **you** had been scrapped!" said James.

12. All the engines looked at Percy. Just then, the Fat Controller came out of his office and advised his engines to carry on with their work. Later, Percy explained to Edward that he had misheard him when they had passed earlier that day. "I'm ever so pleased that you won't be scrapped, Edward," laughed Percy.

THE END

In our next issue: Percy and the Local!